



TOWN of DARIEN
MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Minutes of the June 14, 2011 Meeting

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The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Chairman, Phil Kraft. Members attending included: **Marian Castell; Ed Carabillo; newly reinstated member, John Geoghegan; Phil Kraft; David Polett; Karen Polett; Bob Riith; Rebecca Siciliano; Charles Scribner; and George Walsh.** Prospective member, Anne Penrose **attended and** Phil introduced a new volunteer for our Commission, Sueann Schorr, who is the Darien Girl Scout Service Unit Manager and is in the Navy Reserve.

Minutes of the May 10, meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Scribner, second Carabillo.

A discussion of the Memorial Day Parade ensued and suggestions for improvement were given. Commission members noted that the Parade goes on rain or shine because the veterans and servicemen and women we honor did not stop their fighting because of inclement weather.

1. The number of chairs on the Reviewing Stand was sufficient. However, members mentioned that it was difficult to see the Reviewing Stand because people stood and/or sat in front of it. We will try to mark it off with police tape or some sort of cones or barrier so that people will not block the area next year. SOS group may be asked to stand near the Reviewing Stand to prevent people from getting in front of it.
2. This (SOS) Save of Soldiers group from the High School needs to be more readily identified by us and the general public as Parade officials. Suggestions for an official arm band or hat for these students was recommended. A meeting with the group prior to the Parade might be helpful. All agreed these students were a great help this year.
3. Bob Riith will talk to Senior Center woodworking group about constructing a taller collapsible Reviewing Stand. Becky volunteered to talk to the Darien High School Shop teacher if the seniors do not come up with an idea.
4. A numbering system for divisions was discussed. Modifications might help people know where their positions were if we clarified each row with more specific signage.
5. Boy Scouts, and Guides were excellent and very Patriotic this year. Leaders of each Scout troop could display their flags more prominently so that the Scouts can more easily recognize where their troops are located. Leaders of children's group need to come to the end of their respective lines so the parents can see them at the drop off site.
6. Commission members wanted to ascertain just how many vehicles the Senior Men would bring to the Parade. Discussion about car pools and limiting the number of vehicles was suggested.
7. Special Olympics need more supervision and should be asked to ride, not walk next year. Commission members were worried about the liability issue because vehicles behind the walkers voiced their concern about the safety of these marchers.
8. Calvary Baptist Church marchers gave out flags and water bottles and need to be reminded that this is not permitted and is a safety issue.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

9. Fire Department vehicles cannot stop at the end of the Parade near Hecker Avenue to pick up members who are walking. They need to pull up farther on the Post Road near the Firemen's Monument. They held up the entire Parade.
10. State Veterans' wreath was mistakenly delivered to the Firemen's Monument by Neilsen's Florist.
11. Phil will ask Rick Sadlon about the Middle School Band marching next year.
12. Shane Smith will conduct a flag retirement ceremony behind the Darien Fire Department at a future date.
13. Chick will remove the flags in the cemetery this Thursday, June 16 and needs volunteers to help.
14. The beach ceremony held on Saturday, June 4, was impressive and Commission members suggested that it be done as part of the Boat Club opening ceremony next year.
15. Selectmen and Linda O'Leary, Fire Departments, Policemen, newspapers and local officials should be notified about the September 11, ceremony to begin at 8:30 AM at the 9-11 monument on that date behind the Middlesex Middle School this year. It is the 10th anniversary and a Sunday. Schools should be notified by email so that the public is aware of this observance. Karen will obtain a wreath and 2 dozen red roses from Springdale Florists.

On a motion by Ed Carabillo, second Geroqe Walsh, the meeting was adjourned at 4: 45 PM. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, at 3:30 PM in Room 206 at the Darien Town Hall. No meetings are scheduled for July or August.

Submitted by,

Karen Polett

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Secretary